THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) The National Security Adviser and Principal Secretary to PM in his address to the Munich Security Conference said, *inter alia*:

> "The novel version of democracy, which Pakistan recently unveiled, has brought in more religious extremist forces into the polity, particularly on the Afghanistan border. The safe havens for Al-Quida and Taliban elements may expand in consequence. If you also remember that Pakistan's nuclear assets are believed to be stored in tunnels and caves in the Chagai Hills of Bluchistan, our concerns should be obvious. Persistent reports of the freelance activities of some Pakistani nuclear scientists only add to our disquiet. A larger-than-life obsession with the 'global' Al-Queda group results in inadequate political consultations and selective intelligence sharing on the global terrorist threat. This has led to some costly gaps in the campaign against international terrorism".

(d) The Annual Munich Conference organised by an influential private foundation provides the opportunity for discussions and debate among top policy and opinion makers from different countries. It is not a forum where any decisions are taken.

Trade Agreement with Afghanistan

3647. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed a bilateral trade agreement with Afghanistan during the recent visit of Afghan President;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed by the two countries; and

(c) to what extent, Indian people, traders and tourists would be benefited by this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. A Preferential Trade Agreement was signed on 6th March 2003 between India and Afghanistan during the visit of H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, President of Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.

(b) The Agreement provides for duty-free access to the import of fig-dried, pistachio (open and closed shell), pistachios shelled (kernel), mulberries dried, pine nuts roasted, melon fresh, asafeotida, lapis lazuli, ruby, emeralds etc. from Afghanistan. A 50% concession has also been extended on duty on green, black and red raisins, apricots dried, walnuts (unshelled and shelled), plums dried, almonds (thin shelled and hard shelled), raisins golden, apricots (bitter unshelled and bitter shelled) cherries sour dried, fresh grapes (all types), apples fresh, apricots fresh, pomegranates, anise seeds, caraway seeds, linseeds, sesame seeds, liquorice root plants for pharmacy, and alpha alpha seeds. In return the Afghan Government would allow duty free access into Afghanistan from india of black tea (fermented), other black tea, antisera & other imunigel products, other ayurvedic homeopathic medicine, other medicine for retail sale, sugar refined, cement clinkers and white cement.

(c) The Agreement would help in further consolidation and enhancement of trade and economic ties between India and Afghanistan.

Extradition Treaty between India and Poland

3648. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Poland have signed an extradition treaty; and

(b) if so, the details of the treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes.

(b) The Extradition Treaty between India and Poland was signed on February 17, 2003 at New Delhi. The Treaty will come into force after the exchange of instruments of ratification. It will provide a legal framework for the extradition of fugitive offenders.

Death of Indians in Iraq

†3649. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the death or injury of any Indian nationals during war waged by US in Iraq has been confirmed officially;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.